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Agenda item 68 (b)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Albania, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay: draft resolution

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 61/177, of 20 December 2006, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,

Recalling resolution 47/133, of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances as a body of principles for all States,

Recalling also its resolution 64/167 of 18 December 2009, as well as relevant resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council, including resolution 14/10 of 18 June 2010,[1] which took note of the report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances[2] and the recommendations contained therein,

Deeply concerned, in particular, by the increase in enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction, when these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances, and by the

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/65/53), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] A/HRC/13/31 and Corr.1.

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growing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared,

Recalling that the Convention sets out the right of victims to know the truth regarding the circumstances of the enforced disappearance, the progress and the results of the investigation and the fate of the disappeared person, and sets forth State party obligations to take appropriate measures in this regard,

Acknowledging that acts of enforced disappearance are recognized in the Convention as crimes against humanity, in certain circumstances,

Acknowledging the valuable work of the International Committee of the Red Cross in promoting compliance with international humanitarian law in this field,

Recognizing that the entry into force of the Convention, as soon as possible, through its ratification by twenty States, and its implementation, will be a significant contribution to end impunity and to the promotion and protection of all human rights for all,

Welcoming the fact that, in recent years, 30 August has been observed in many countries around the world as International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;

2. *Also welcomes* the fact that eighty-six States have signed the Convention and nineteen have ratified or acceded to it, and calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, as well as to consider the option provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention regarding the Committee on Enforced Disappearances;

3. *Further welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;[3]

4. *Decides* to declare 30 August International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, to be observed beginning in 2011, and calls upon Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as the civil society, to observe this Day;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue with their intensive efforts to assist States to become parties to the Convention, with a view to achieving universal adherence;

6. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to continue undertaking efforts to disseminate information on the Convention, to promote its understanding, to prepare for its entry into force and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under this instrument;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-sixth session, a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of the present resolution.

[3] A/65/257.